

# Virginia Free Press

## AND FARMERS' REPOSITORY.

VOL. XXV.

CHARLESTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1832.

NO. 9.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY  
**JOHN S. GILL-SHER.**

**CONDITIONS.**  
The Press is published weekly, at  
**TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.**

Payable half yearly in advance; but Two Dollars will be received as payment in full, if paid entirely in advance. Should payment be wholly deferred until the end of the year, Two Dollars will be invariably charged.  
\* All communications addressed to the Editor must be post paid.

Advertisements inserted at the rate of one cent per square for the first insertion, and twenty-five cents per square for each subsequent insertion.

\* All advertisements presented for insertion will be continued until forbidden, and charged accordingly, unless special directions to the contrary be given.

**Virginia Free Press.**

Much interest is felt as to the probable issue of what is called the Georgia question. Our own opinion is, that the missionaries will be pardoned by Georgia, before the November election; and whilst that State will still maintain her doctrine of sovereignty, the President will be spared the necessity of ordering out the posse comitatus to enforce the mandate of the Supreme Court. We shall see.

An important Report was made by the Committee on Manufactures, in the Senate, on the 16th inst, on the subject of the Public Lands, accompanied by a bill to appropriate, for a limited time, the proceeds thereof. Five thousand extra copies were ordered to be printed. The report is spoken of, as being most able and comprehensive—embracing a "brief history of the public domain." The National Intelligencer contains an outline of this interesting state paper. Mr. CLAY is its author.

"The majority of the committee recommend that after deducting the ten per cent. for the new States, the residue of the fund should be divided for five years among the twenty-four States, according to their Federal Representative number, to be applied to Education, Internal Improvements, Colonization, or the redemption of debts incurred for purposes of Internal Improvement, as each State, judging for itself, may prefer.—A table is appended to the Report, showing what would be the dividend of each State.—A portion of the committee, says the Report, were for applying the above residue to the objects of Internal Improvement, and of colonizing the free blacks, under the direction of the General Government."

The proceedings of Congress, since the debate upon the Tariff, have generally been of so dull a character, that we often forgot to copy any part of them. But a little variety has been introduced—and things are now becoming spicy. Mr. Blair of South Carolina has been talking of "cannon as orators, and powder and ball as arguments." Ex-Governor Houston, (more practical in his commentaries,) has actually applied the "argumentum baculum"—and "used up" Mr. Stanberry of Ohio with a hickory club. This is "Modern Chivalry." We hope the spirit may not take its way hitherward.

Ex-Governor Houston seems to think privilege and liberty synonymous terms. Mr. Stanberry exercises the privilege of saying some hard things of his excellency—and the latter takes the liberty to return the compliment in hard knocks. This, we suppose, is what is meant by the old phrase of "cudgeling the brains," or what Phrenologists might call developing the bumps of combativeness.

The great "Globe" itself seems to be too small to contain the matters written, and to be written, in praise of Gen. Jackson's administration, between this time and the next Presidential election. An extra is therefore to be issued, once a week, after the first of May, at the price of one dollar for thirty numbers. Those who wish to "improve" in political science, can have "BLAIR'S Lectures" at a cheap rate. In order that the pathway of the Chieftain may be fully illuminated, several *Bums, Stars, and Telescopes*, will be put in motion—and perhaps a Comet or two. Wo, we to the new "Coalition!"

P. F. BARBOUR, Esq. has published an address to the public, vindicating his course upon the National Bank question in 1815.—Upon that occasion he declined voting; and this is considered by his friends as the only error of his political life. His reasons, in part, seem to be, that the country was in difficulty, and could not get along without money—and although he thought the Bank unconstitutional, yet so great were the public exigencies that he could not "take the defence of the country upon the infallibility of one single opinion of" his. Satisfactory as all this may be, it is deemed that he shall be laid upon the shelf, and that Mr. Van Buren shall receive the vote of Virginia for Vice President.

### POSTICAL.

"At Midsummer Eve, according to a custom common over Germany, every young girl plucks a sprig of St. John's wort (Hypericum) and sticks it into the wall of her chamber, should it, owing to the dampness of the wall, retain its freshness and verdure, she may reckon upon gaining a suitor in the course of a year; but should it drop, the popular belief is, that she is also destined to pluck and wither away."

The young maid stole through the cottage door And blushed, as she sought the plant of power; Then silver glow-worms, O! lend me thy light, I must gather the mystic St. John's wort to-night, The wonderful herb, whose leaf will decide If the coming year shall make me a bride.

"And the glow-worm came With its silvery flame And sparkled and shone Through the night of St. John. And soon as the maiden her love knot tied, With sighs and tears, To her chamber she sped, Where the spectral soon her white beams shed."

Bloom here—bloom here, thou plant of power, To deck the young bride, in her bridal hour, But it drooped its head, that plant of power, And died the mate death of the voiceless flower, And withered wreath on the ground it lay, More meet for a burial than a bridal day, And when the full year had flitted away All pale on her brow the young maid lay!

"And the glow-worm came With its silvery flame And sparkled and shone Through the night of St. John, And they closed the grave o'er the maid's cold day."

### BEAUTIFUL SKETCH.

It was one of the cold nights in December. The cold wind blew with reckless violence. The old woman was herself ill, and urged I would step up and see how the poor woman was. It was a poor shelter. The pale moon beams played on the floor through the chinks and the wind whistled through the broken windows. On the bed, pale and emaciated with fever, lay the poor woman. In the cradle by the side of the bed, wrapped in a single swaddling rug, slept an infant; and in the corner near the fire, sat a little boy, four or five years of age. There was no other being in the house—no friend to soothe her distress—no nurse to moisten her lips with a drop of water. Poverty has few allures—sickness has none; prudery and uncharitableness readily availed themselves of the frailties of the poor sufferer to excuse their neglect. I stepped out to procure some bread for the boy. I was not long gone, and on returning, the sound of foot-steps on the floor, told me somebody was within. Oh! this was an affecting scene! A young female friend, whose genius is not unknown to her literary acquaintances, whose virtuous and amiable disposition, combined with an agreeableness of manners, rendered her beloved as extensively as she is known, had preferred to the gay scenes of mirth, the charms of a novel, a lone unostentatious visit to the house of adversity, and the bed of sickness!—Like an angel of mercy, she was administering to the comfort of the poor woman and her little infant.

I have been in assemblies of the great. I have seen woman glowing in beauty—arrayed in the richest attraction of dress, whose charms are heightened by the "pride and pomp of circumstances," elegance and conviviality. A lovely young woman in such a scene, irresistibly commands our highest admiration. But alone, at the bed of poverty and sickness, she appeared more than human—I would not be impious; but she seemed almost divine.—*Boston Transcript.*

We recollect reading such a proverb as this: "It is as sport to a fool to do mischief." A miserable sport, even for a fool; and yet we are compelled to suppose that some of our fellow-creatures are thus miserable.—Any boy can throw mud at a sign-board, whistle a Piano, cast stones at a window, get forged advertisements into a newspaper. Any fool can do mischief. It is a business suited to the lowest capacity. One thing is to be remembered. Every boy or man who commits a mischievous act, spoils his character in the estimation of the person whose good opinion he should first of all maintain: He dishonors himself with himself.

The following epigram was written for the tomb-stone of a young man who committed suicide in an Eastern city some years ago,—though we believe not engraved on the stone; if indeed any was set up to mark his narrow house:

"—here lies poor Bob, The kind himself—who can?"

**Bank Anecdote.**—Many years since, a book-keeper in one of the Banks of our city, received a challenge from a person who kept an account with the bank, in consequence of the former having reported the latter as an over-draw.

The book-keeper returned the challenge with the following laconic note written upon it.

"The bank pays me for writing, but not for fighting."

### Remarks on Comets.

By Dudley Leavitt, of Meredith. From the N. H. Patriot.

Considerable has been said, and something written, of late, respecting a comet, which the papers tell us will approach within 20,000 miles of the earth, about the 20th of June next, according to the prediction of certain German astronomers. Before giving an opinion as to the probability of such an event, I shall first mention some of the whims and absurd notions which have been entertained concerning comets, and also some of the laws and principles pertaining to them.

During the ages of barbarism and superstition, comets were regarded as the harbingers of some awful calamity in the natural or political world. In the year 1465, a comet appeared which was looked upon in Europe, with horror, except by astronomers, and the people were so terrified at the success of the Turkish arms at that time, and thinking the comet was the cause of it, that pope Callixtus ordered a general prayer on the occasion.

So late as the beginning of the 18th century, Mr. Whiston, the friend and companion of Newton, supposed comets to be the abodes of the damned, who, by being alternately wheeled by the comet from the chilling regions of cold and darkness in the remotest limits of the system, and then wafted into the very vicinity of the sun, were punished by the extremes of perishing cold, and devouring fire.

Much speculation and anxiety were produced both in Europe and America, by the comet which appeared in Sept. 1811. Some ignorant people thought it was intended to produce the day of judgment; others, that it would strike against the earth, and instantly annihilate it, or approach so near as to burn it up; others were so frightened as to omit going to market; many made their will, and some committed suicide. All this was borrowing trouble needlessly, for the comet passed off quietly, and killed nobody, except those it scared to death.

Comets, like other planets, are retained in their orbits by the power of gravity, and carried round the sun by their centrifugal forces, and when nearest the sun, are heated to a great degree. It is stated that Sir Isaac Newton found the heat of the great comet which appeared in 1686, when nearest the sun, to be 2000 times greater than red hot iron, which degree of heat he computed as follows: The heat of the comet at that time was 18,000 times greater than the heat of the summer sun. Boiling water is about three times greater than the heat which dry earth acquires from the summer sun; and the heat of red-hot iron is between three and four times greater than the heat of boiling water; therefore the dry earth at the comet, when in its perihelion, was about 2000 times hotter than red-hot iron.

It is very singular that though the attraction of the other planets greatly disturbs the comets in their motions, yet the comets do not seem to disturb the planets in their motions.

It has been estimated by Dr. Olbers of Bremen, in Germany, that one comet out of 439,000,000, if there be so many, might, in its revolution, possibly strike the earth, and that such an event might happen once in 290,000,000 of years; and it has been supposed that the deluge was caused by a comet's coming in contact with the earth. But this appears improbable, and even impossible, on the principle of mutual attraction, unless the comet consisted wholly of water. For, if the mutual attraction of the earth and a comet when 20,000 miles asunder, is sufficient to draw them together, according to the calculation of German astronomers, surely when once in contact, they would continue to be so, and we should have one world sticking to the side of another; but no such thing is seen, or ever has been, that we know of: then where is the comet which caused the deluge? Will any one suppose that by its heat it melted or fused the earth, and when both became cool they united and formed one new globe? Or, that the collision was so great as to reduce both to atoms, which by their mutual attraction collected themselves into the globe which we now inhabit? Neither of these suppositions is consistent both with the laws of nature & the catastrophe of the deluge. Were we to suppose that the comet which struck the earth and produced the flood, was a perfectly aqueous body, this solves the question, provided comets were not heated, but if they are heated as Newton conjectures, a globe of water not more than boiling hot, would soon be dissipated in steam. But to return to the subject of the comet calculated to approach the earth in June of the present year.

Should this comet arrive as predicted in Germany, it will be seven times nearer the earth than the moon is at her mean distance; as it will be between the earth and sun, and consequently invisible till it has passed its perihelion, unless its magnitude should be great. If it should be drawn to the earth it will not be seen descending excepting to those where the sun is above the horizon. If its orbit coincides with the plane of the ecliptic, and it should strike the earth when it is noon in New England, the point of contact will be among the West India Islands, near which the sun will then be vertical. If the time of contact should be at our midnight, the comet will strike the earth in Asia; if near sunrise, in Europe; and if near sunset, in the Pacific Ocean, which, by being pressed out of its place by the comet, will flow over the land, and cause another deluge. But this, if the Bible is true, will never happen, because the earth is never again to be drowned by a "flood of water."

On the 20th of June, this year, the Moon, Mars, and Jupiter will be near the west at noon, and Saturn will be near the east, consequently those planets will attract the comet in a different direction from what the earth will, which will tend to prevent the coming in contact of the earth and comet.

Finally, though it may be possible for a comet to strike the earth, or to come in contact with it, the chances against such an event are so numerous, that none need dread its occurrence.

### Sketch of the most important LAWS,

PASSED AT THE SESSION OF 1831-32. (Continued.)

An act incorporating the stockholders of the James river and Kanawha company, authorizes books for subscription to be opened at Richmond, Lynchburg, Lexington, Pattonsburg, Covington, Staunton, Fincastle, Lewisburg, Union, Charlestown, and such other places as the commissioners may think proper, to raise a capital stock of five millions of dollars, in shares of one hundred dollars each; the state subscribes for ten thousand shares, to be paid for by a transfer of her whole interest in the works and property of the present James river company; no individual to be regarded as a subscriber, unless he shall pay into one of the State Banks in Richmond, at least five dollars to the credit of the company, and have furnished a certificate thereof to the second auditor; if three-fifths of the five millions be not subscribed by individuals, the amount paid to be refunded, and a report to be made of the failure to the next general assembly. When the three fifths are subscribed by individuals, but the whole capital is not made up, then the state subscribes for the residue. Upon the subscription aforesaid, the company to be incorporated; and a general meeting to be held in Richmond, to which meeting the books of subscription to be returned, and the certificates for the money paid in, to be transferred by the second auditor to the new company. A majority of the stockholders, in person or by proxy, to constitute such meeting; stockholders to be entitled to one vote for each share as far as ten, and one vote for every five above ten. A stated general meeting to be held in Richmond on the second Monday in December annually; officers to be a president and seven directors, to be annually elected, and such other agents and officers as the company may think proper to appoint; their duties, salaries and emoluments to be regulated by their by-laws.

An act to amend the act entitled, an act concerning the executive department, under the amended constitution, passed February the 8th, 1831—prescribes, that there shall be a secretary to the commonwealth, or clerk of the executive, to be appointed by the governor, to be keeper of the seals of state, whose duty it shall be to keep a record of the executive acts, and file and preserve all papers belonging to, and perform all the clerical duties of that department, rendering to the governor, in the despatch of executive business, such services as he may require. He is also to be librarian to the state. He is empowered to appoint an assistant clerk, and a copyist, when the business requires it; the compensation to the latter not to exceed two hundred dollars. His own salary to be the same as now allowed the clerk of the council, and librarian; and the assistant clerk to be the same as now allowed that officer of the council. The council of state to have a clerk also, to be allowed five hundred dollars per year. The rooms in the capital heretofore used by the executive council, to be appropriated to the use of the governor and council.

An act providing for special courts of appeals, provides, that when a majority of the judges of the court of appeals are interested in any cases, that fact to be certified to the general court, who are to designate such judges of that court, not interested, as will make the number of the special court five, with the judges of the court of appeals not interested, who, or any three of whom, are to constitute the court, and try the cause on the court of appeals might have done; requires the clerk of the court of appeals, from which the cause proceeded, to attend such special court with the records, &c., and act as clerk thereto, and the judgments of such court to be certified to the court below, and proceeded in as if the same had been determined by the court of appeals. The like officers to attend the said court, and to receive the like compensation as those attending the court of appeals. Each judge of such special court to be allowed five dollars per day, and four dollars for every twenty miles travelling. Special courts to be held at Richmond, to be summoned there on the 10th of December, and at Lewisburg on the first Monday in July next after the date of such summons. And empowers the court of appeals, if the parties consent thereto, to summon the judges of the general court themselves, to constitute such special court without the intervention of the general court, as above provided.

An act making appropriations to certain counties for certain purposes,—to repair the roads and bridges destroyed by the late unprecedented freshets in the Ohio river, appropriates, \$1,600 to the county of Brooke; \$4,500 to the county of Ohio; \$600 to the county of Tyler; \$1,000 to the county of Wood; \$250 to the county of Jackson; \$1,000 to the county of Mason; and \$600 to the county of Cabell;—the sheriffs of these several counties to pay out of the taxes collected in said counties the several amounts appropriated, to the commissioner to be appointed by each court to superintend the repairs aforesaid, and the Auditor to credit the sheriff therefor in the settlement of his accounts for taxes.

An act prescribing the fees of clerks of the county and corporation courts and of the circuit superior courts of law and chancery,—the act increases the fees of the clerks, and is believed to prescribe a medium rate between the old law and the act of the last session of the Legislature.

An act to provide for the appointment of electors to choose a President and Vice President of the United States; directs twenty-two electors to be chosen by the people on the first Monday in November; and declares that the present congressional districts shall be the districts for the choice of electors, each voter to vote for twenty-two persons, one of whom shall reside in each district, and the persons having the greatest number of votes to be elected, provided they attend at the capital in Richmond at the time appointed by law.—In case of failure in any elector to attend, or in case the State should be entitled to more than twenty-two electors by the apportionment of representation by the Congress of the United States, the Senate and House of Delegates at their next session to choose electors to supply the vacancy occasioned by the absentees, or to fill up the additional number to which the State is entitled, and in like manner if the State should be entitled to less than twenty-two, the legislature to reduce the number to the proper amount. If the legislature should not be in session from any cause, the same power is given to the governor and council. The electors to have the same compensation as the members of the legislature.

An act concerning the Public Guard; increases the number of the Guard to a Captain, Lieutenant, Ensign, six Sergeants, six Corporals, and 70 men with two musicians; and subjects the Guard to the regulations of the United States' Army now existing. The term of service to be three years. The commanding officer to be considered as in the command of a separate post, and entitled to the rations allowed therefore in the United States' Army. Prescribes the duties of the Surgeon, and increases his salary to nine hundred dollars; and requires the appointment of an Hospital Steward from the line, with additional compensation to him of four dollars per month.

An act imposing taxes for the support of government; imposes taxes upon precisely the same subjects, and to the same amount with the taxes of the last year, except that all boarding houses in towns, where boarders are entertained for a shorter period than one month, are subjected to the same tax with houses of private entertainment.

[To be continued.]

### LANDS FOR SALE.

#### Marshall's Sale.

PURSUANT to the directions of two interlocutory decrees, pronounced by the United States court in the 5th circuit and eastern district of Virginia, in a suit therein depending between Thomas Astley, executor of John Palmer, dec'd, who was executor of Thomas Palmer, dec'd, plaintiff, and John Campbell, Rob't Campbell, and James Govan, defendants: the first decree made on the 15th day of June, 1831, and the last on the 30th day of May, 1831: I shall, on Monday the 11th day of June next, at Leesburg, in Loudoun county, in front of the court-house door, if fair, if not, the first fair day thereafter, proceed to sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on a credit of one and two years, a certain piece or parcel of LAND, situate, lying, and being in the counties of Loudoun and Fairfax, containing four hundred and twenty-three Acres, being all remaining after the sale made by the said Govan to J. Blincoe and Cockerell, of that tract or parcel of land which was sold and conveyed by Carter B. Page and Rebecca his wife, of the city of Richmond, and John W. Page and Jane his wife, of the county of Frederick, to James Govan of Hanover county, by deed bearing date on the 6th day of June, 1831, for twenty-five hundred acres of land. And on Monday the 18th day of June, aforesaid, at Charlestown, in Jefferson county, in front of the court-house door, if fair, if not, the first fair day thereafter, I shall proceed to sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on a credit of one and two years, four tracts or parcels of land, situate, lying, and being in the county of Jefferson, near Harpers-Ferry, containing three hundred and thirty-three and one third acres of land, each being lots, numbers 1, 2, 3, and 6, as designated by a plat and division made by the Surveyor of Jefferson county, of two thousand acres of land lying and being in said county.

The aforesaid described property is worthy the attention of those who may desire to vest their funds in real estate, as the same is situated in a healthy, fertile, and prosperous part of the State. That lying near Harpers-Ferry, is considered very valuable on account of its timber.

Bonds with approved security will be required for the purchase money, and deeds of trust on the property sold, to secure the payment of such bonds.  
EDMUND CHRISTIAN, Marshal  
U. S. 5th Circuit, and Eastern Dist' of Va.  
April 5, 1832—31.

**Will be Sold at Auction,**  
On Monday the 21st of May next, (being court-day,) at Beckham's hotel, Charlestown,

**THAT valuable Lot of Land,** formerly owned by the late Samuel O. Offutt, situated on the graded road leading from Charlestown to Harpers-Ferry, and adjoining the town lot of Mr. John Stephenson. It contains about

**14 ACRES,**  
and is in a high state of cultivation. For terms apply to Mr. John J. Palmer, at Charlestown, or to the subscriber, at Seickerville, Loudoun county. Title indisputable.  
TH. F. OFFUTT.  
April 19, 1832.

#### Valuable Jefferson Land

##### FOR SALE.

THE subscriber, as the agent and attorney of Thomas Fairfax, Esq. of Alexandria, offers for sale that valuable estate in Jefferson county, Virginia, called "The Hammitage," consisting of

##### 673 ACRES OF LAND,

a large proportion of which is in timber of the finest quality. The advantages possessed by this property are very great. Lying near the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, it is in the vicinity of the large mills erected on these streams, whilst all the facilities for transporting its produce to market, to be derived from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, will be enjoyed by it in the highest degree. There is a large and constant stream of water running through the tract, of such magnitude that it supplies several valuable mills before it reaches the land. There are also several fine lime stone springs on the estate. The cleared land is in a high state of cultivation, and the fences are good. Possession can be had immediately.

The terms will be accommodating, and if found advantageous to do so, the tract will be divided into two parts to suit purchasers. All applications to be made to the subscriber, residing at Charlestown, Jefferson county, Va.  
JOSEPH T. DAUGHERTY.  
June 9, 1831.—16.

##### A GREAT BARGAIN

may be had in the purchase of this estate, by making immediate application to the subscriber.  
In the mean time, Mr. John Griggs is duly authorized to prevent all trespasses on the premises.  
J. T. DAUGHERTY.  
March 1, 1832.

#### Jefferson Land for Sale.

I WILL SELL the farm on which I now live, at the Old Furnace, containing 225 ACRES, in a good state of cultivation, and bounded by the Potomac river, with every necessary building thereon for the use of a farm. Also,

**A first-rate Tan Yard,**  
With 44 vats of various descriptions.—And a brick smith's shop, with all other buildings complete.

Terms will be so favorable, that one half of the purchase money may be made off of the property; and possession can be had at any time.

HENRY STRIDER.  
Feb. 14, 1832—16